

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday – Saturday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.

365 days a year

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Monday - Sunday: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.

ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PARK FEES:

\$6 vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

ONLINE RESERVATIONS:

<http://www.maricopacountyparks.org/>

DIRECTIONS:

From central Phoenix, take I-10 west to Estrella Parkway exit. Travel south to Vineyard Ave. Turn east on Vineyard Ave. to the Estrella Mountain Regional Park entrance on the south side.



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

14805 W. Vineyard Avenue

Goodyear, AZ 85338

Ph: 623-932-3811

Fax: 623-932-7717

estrellapark@mail.maricopa.gov



NOVEMBER 2015 FEATURED PROGRAMS

Scorpion Search

Date: 11/6/2015 Time: 7:30 p.m.

Description: Scorpions have great camouflage, but we have an extra trick to help us spot them! We'll take a short, safe hike and use special lights to help us find scorpions by making them glow. We'll learn all about these awesome arachnids along the way! (Although most scorpions are hidden in the winter, don't worry-Ranger Tippy's rigged the game!) Bring water, close-toed shoes and a black light if you have one (they're also available for purchase at the gift shop). Meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Arizona Wildlife Mythbusting

Date: 11/7/2015 Time: 2 p.m.

Description: This program will take a look at myths surrounding the wildlife native to the Sonoran Desert. Whether you're an Arizona native or just stopping by for a visit, here's an opportunity to learn more about the wonderful creatures that call this area home. Meet at the Nature Center, where we'll meet some live native animals. From there we'll take a short hike to see some spectacular views of our great county. Bring plenty of water and close-toed shoes.

Core: Animals

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Birds of Estrella

Date: 11/14/2015 Time: 8 a.m.

Description: Explore the bird life of Estrella Park with special guest guide Joe Ford. With our wide range of habitat

types, we have some of the best birding in the valley! Whether you've been working on your life list for decades or you're a brand new birder, you can enjoy this opportunity to spot and observe many bird species. Bring plenty of water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Nature Center. Rain cancels event.

Core: Animals

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Stargazing for Everyone!

Date: 11/20/2015 Time: 7:30 p.m.

Description: The night sky is calling you! What will we see tonight? Planets? The rings of Saturn or the Moons of Jupiter? An exploding star? Constellations? Galaxies? Tony and Carole LaConte will guide you through the universe during this spectacular program! This will be an outdoor program, held at the Horse Arena. Watch the park's website for more information, updates or changes, in case of inclement weather, prior to the event.

Core: Astronomy

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Life in the Desert

Date: 11/22/2015 Time: 9 a.m.

Description: The desert is a tough place to make a living for plants and animals. But life has found a way to make a home here despite the extreme temperatures and having very little water. Find out some of the extraordinary techniques plants and animals have for staying alive during this guided hike. Meet the Interpretive Ranger at the Nature Center. Please bring close-toed shoes and plenty of water.

Core: Plants

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MONTHLY EVENTS

Fitness Thursday

Date: 11/5/2015 **Time:** 7 a.m.

Description: Explore Estrella's beautiful trails and views while getting in a great workout! These 3-5 mile hikes will have you feeling great in no time! Please bring plenty of water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Scorpion Search

Date: 11/6/2015 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: Scorpions have great camouflage, but we have an extra trick to help us spot them! We'll take a short, safe hike and use special lights to help us find scorpions by making them glow. We'll learn all about these awesome arachnids along the way! (Although most scorpions are hidden in the winter, don't worry-Ranger Tippy's rigged the game!) Bring water, close-toed shoes and a black light if you have one (they're also available for purchase at the gift shop). Meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Passport Estrella: The Hike Every Trail Challenge! Day 3

Date: 11/7/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Estrella Park is a gorgeous desert wilderness with so much to explore. Are you up for the challenge of experiencing what she has to offer? Then join the Passport Estrella Challenge! Every week we will explore a new part of Estrella, starting off with her easier trails and working our way up to the longest ones. After each hike, get a new stamp in your passport and when we're finished, you will have hiked every trail in Estrella Park. Best of all, certain hikes will offer special access to areas not generally accessible to the public for a chance to see some of Estrella's hidden treasures. Meet new hiker friends, feel your fitness level grow and take in Estrella's breathtaking landscape. As icing on the cake, we'll have a celebration when we're done! Visit our website for more information. Otherwise, meet at the Nature Center with good shoes, plenty of water and your adventurous self!

Core: Health & Fitness

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Believe it or Not! Animal Intelligence

Date: 11/7/2015 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Description: While all of nature can be amazing, there are some things out there

so spectacularly outrageous that it will blow your mind! This indoor presentation will focus on animal intelligence and research that's been done to investigate how smart the creatures we share our planet with are. Meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Arizona Wildlife Mythbusting

Date: 11/7/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: This program will take a look at myths surrounding the wildlife native to the Sonoran Desert. Whether you're an Arizona native or just stopping by for a visit, here's an opportunity to learn more about the wonderful creatures that call this area home. Meet at the Nature Center, where we'll meet some live native animals. From there we'll take a short hike to see some spectacular views of our great county. Bring plenty of water and close-toed shoes.

Core: Animals

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Animal Signs

Date: 11/8/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Animal signs are everywhere, if you know what you're looking for. Join Ranger Tippy and learn all about animal signs and what they tell us. Then we'll head out for a short walk to practice looking for evidence of wildlife. Bring water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Lunch with the Critters

Date: 11/8/2015 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Description: It's lunchtime for the critters at the nature center! We'll watch how they chow down and learn a few things about these animals that call the Sonoran Desert their home. You may even get to help us feed the tortoises!

Core: Animals

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Fitness Thursday

Date: 11/12/2015 **Time:** 7 a.m.

Description: Explore Estrella's beautiful trails and views while getting in a great workout! These 3-5 mile hikes will have you feeling great in no time! Please bring plenty of water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Nocturnal Animal Night Hike

Date: 11/13/2015 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: Come explore the world of nocturnal animals! We'll take a short, easy hike and learn about some of the

creatures of the night along the way. Bring water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Birds of Estrella

Date: 11/14/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Explore the bird life of Estrella Park with special guest guide Joe Ford. With our wide range of habitat types, we have some of the best birding in the valley! Whether you've been working on your life list for decades or you're a brand new birder, you can enjoy this opportunity to spot and observe many bird species. Bring plenty of water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Nature Center. Rain cancels event.

Core: Animals

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Passport Estrella: The Hike Every Trail Challenge! Day 4

Date: 11/14/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Estrella Park is a gorgeous desert wilderness with so much to explore. Are you up for the challenge of experiencing what she has to offer? Then join the Passport Estrella Challenge! Every week we will explore a new part of Estrella, starting off with her easier trails and working our way up to the longest ones. After each hike, get a new stamp in your passport and when we're finished, you will have hiked every trail in Estrella Park. Best of all, certain hikes will offer special access to areas not generally accessible to the public for a chance to see some of Estrella's hidden treasures. Meet new hiker friends, feel your fitness level grow and take in Estrella's breathtaking landscape. As icing on the cake, we'll have a celebration when we're done! Visit our website for more information. Otherwise, meet at the Nature Center with good shoes, plenty of water and your adventurous self!

Core: Health & Fitness

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The Thanksgiving Bird: Turkeys!

Date: 11/14/2015 **Time:** 11 a.m.

Description: Benjamin Franklin, writing to his daughter, said that the wild turkey would make a better national symbol for the United States than the Bald Eagle. There's a lot of good reasons for that-turkeys are courageous and intelligent birds! Find out all about turkeys and what makes them so fascinating. Meet at the Nature Center for this indoor presentation.

Core: Animals

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ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Arts and Crafts for Kids

Date: 11/14/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: It's craft time at the Nature Center! Join us for a chance to create original desert artwork, with real life inspiration all around you! Bring snacks if you like and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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Fitness Hike

Date: 11/15/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Let's get moving! Join Estrella Park Volunteer Sandy Kehs on a fitness hike! Get in a great workout while enjoying the desert landscape and views. As an added bonus, we're celebrating National Take a Hike day, so park admission is free! Bring good shoes and plenty of water and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Scavenger Hunt

Date: 11/15/2015 **Time:** 11 a.m.

Description: Ready for a scavenger hunt? See what you can find while exploring Estrella's trails and learn a few things about what you discover. We're also celebrating National Take a Hike day, so park admission is free! Bring plenty of water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Plants

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Fitness Thursday

Date: 11/19/2015 **Time:** 7 a.m.

Description: Explore Estrella's beautiful trails and views while getting in a great workout! These 3-5 mile hikes will have you feeling great in no time! Please bring plenty of water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Stargazing for Everyone!

Date: 11/20/2015 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: The night sky is calling you! What will we see tonight? Planets? The rings of Saturn or the Moons of Jupiter? An exploding star? Constellations? Galaxies? Tony and Carole LaConte will guide you through the universe during this spectacular program! This will be an outdoor program, held at the Horse Arena. Watch the park's website for more information, updates or changes, in case of inclement weather, prior to the event.

Core: Astronomy

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Passport Estrella: The Hike Every Trail Challenge! Day 5

Date: 11/21/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Estrella Park is a gorgeous desert wilderness with so much to explore. Are you up for the challenge of experiencing what she has to offer? Then join the Passport Estrella Challenge! Every week we will explore a new part of Estrella, starting off with her easier trails and working our way up to the longest ones. After each hike, get a new stamp in your passport and when we're finished, you will have hiked every trail in Estrella Park. Best of all, certain hikes will offer special access to areas not generally accessible to the public for a chance to see some of Estrella's hidden treasures. Meet new hiker friends, feel your fitness level grow and take in Estrella's breathtaking landscape. As icing on the cake, we'll have a celebration when we're done! Visit our website for more information. Otherwise, meet at the Nature Center with good shoes, plenty of water and your adventurous self!

Core: Health & Fitness

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Petroglyph Hike

Date: 11/21/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: On this 1.5-mile hike, you will see evidence of a past civilization, the Hohokam. The Interpretive Park Ranger will take you to areas not usually accessible to the public and discuss the Hohokam culture. Bring water and close-toed shoes and meet at the Horseshoe Trailhead.

Core: Archaeology & History

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Biomimicry

Date: 11/21/2015 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Description: This presentation is a look at how we can observe and apply nature's designs and processes to solve complex human problems. How have we stopped bacteria from growing on surfaces without using chemicals? How can we prevent car collisions by mimicking locusts? How can we safely use nanotechnology? Join us at the Nature Center and learn about breakthrough technologies and how scientists are looking to nature for solutions every day!

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Moonlight Hike

Date: 11/21/2015 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: Here's a chance to explore the desert at night! Treat yourself to this relaxing hike in the peace of the desert outdoors. Clear your mind and feel refreshed by getting up and out! Bring water and good shoes and meet at the Nature Center.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Life in the Desert

Date: 11/22/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: The desert is a tough place to make a living for plants and animals. But life has found a way to make a home here despite the extreme temperatures and having very little water. Find out some of the extraordinary techniques plants and animals have for staying alive during this guided hike. Meet the Interpretive Ranger at the Nature Center. Please bring close-toed shoes and plenty of water.

Core: Plants

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Lunch with the Critters

Date: 11/22/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: It's lunchtime for the critters at the nature center! We'll watch how they chow down and learn a few things about these animals that call the Sonoran Desert their home. You may even get to help us feed the tortoises!

Core: Animals

STAFF:

Park Supervisor: Don Harris

Interpretive Ranger: Tippy Jackson

Office Asst. Bruce Zavoda

Maintenance: Tony Blanco and Richard Castillo

MESSAGE FROM THE PARK SUPERVISOR:

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Estrella Mountain Regional Park. We realize that you have a choice when it comes to selecting recreation venues and appreciate your business!

Don Harris

WHAT TO BRING:

Please wear closed-toe shoes or boots for most programs, and bring plenty of drinking water. See descriptions below for specifics.

Notes: Fees for our programs are included in the park entry fee of \$6 per vehicle or with your annual pass or camping fee. Reservations are not required unless specified in the program description. Hikes/programs are canceled if heavy inclement weather is imminent. If possible, canceled hikes will be posted on our website.

MEDIA PARTNERS:

Thank you for helping us advertise Estrella Mountain Regional Parks programs and events! Please include Ranger Amy's email address – tippyjackson@mail.maricopa.gov - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly for with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.